

# BOROUGH OF LUDLOW.



## ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

# Ludlow Borough Council

MR. MAYOR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of submitting the Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ... ..	966
Registrar-General's estimate of the population, mid 1938 ... ..	5,677
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) accord- ing to Rate Books ... ..	1,542
Rateable Value ... ..	£31,435
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£121 14s. 1·3d.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** The Industries are those of a market town serving an extensive Agricultural area, and its prosperity and the conditions of employment chiefly depend on the state of Agriculture. It is, in addition, a residential place and much frequented by visitors on account of its historical interest and the beauty of its surroundings.

## Vital Statistics.

Live Births—

	M	F	<b>Birth-rate per 1000 of the population</b>			
Legitimate	51	49				
Illegitimate	3	4	...	...	...	18·8
	—	—				
	54	53				
	—	—				

Still Births ... .. 3

Deaths 70. Death-rate 12·33. **Comparable rate** ... 9·49

Deaths from Puerperal causes ... .. 1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births ... .. 46

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... 50

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 15

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... .. Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... Nil

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the middle of the year was .52 less than the previous year.

THE BIRTH-RATE (18·8) is a big advance on the previous year (13·09). The rate for England and Wales for the year was 15·1.

THE DEATH-RATE (12·33), when the factor 0·77 supplied by the Registrar-General is used, the corrected death-rate is 9·49 compared with 11·6 for England and Wales for the year.

The causes of deaths were : Influenza 1, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 1; Cancer 15; Diabetes 3; Cerebral Hæmorrhage 5; Heart Disease 9; other Circulatory Diseases 6; Bronchitis 1; Pneumonia 1; Appendicitis 1; Digestive Disease 2; Congenital Debility and Premature Birth 5, Senility 4; Accidents 3; other defined Diseases 12.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the year was 0·17 per thousand of the population, and for Cancer 2·64 per thousand. The former is very satisfactory but the latter is high when compared with the rate for Shropshire. I consider it would be very useful if a Lecture were arranged dealing with the subject of Cancer, in the Town Hall, so that people would know that in the early stages Cancer is very curable and that the mortality is frequently due to delayed treatment.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (46) based on five deaths all due to Congenital Debility and Premature Birth. The rate for England and Wales was for the year 53.

LUDLOW BOROUGH.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate
Average of 5 years 1920-24	22·4	15·9	62
Average of 5 years 1925-29	16·5	14·0	63
Average of 5 years 1930-34	15·3	13·8	36
Ludlow Borough 1935	14·6	13·7 (10·5)	25
Ludlow Borough 1936	15·8	12·9 (9·9)	54
Ludlow Borough 1937	13·09	14·6 (11·28)	53
Ludlow Borough 1938	18·8	12·3 (9·49)	46
England & Wales 1938	15·1	11·6	53



## **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

1. The only whole time Public Health Officer of the Authority is Mr. W. G. Lane, who has held the offices of Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector since 1913. A contribution is made to his salary and that of the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The arrangement made by the County Council for the examination of specimens by the University of Birmingham still continues and is taken full advantages of by Medical Practitioners in the area.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. For Infectious cases the Monkmoor Hospital send their Ambulance and Nurse for collecting the cases. There is a Red Cross Ambulance at a convenient centre in the town for removing accidents and cases of illness to hospital.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. There are a number of Nurses engaged in this work provided by the local Nursing Association, and from personal observation I know the work is efficiently carried out.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. There is a Treatment Centre every morning for School Children for minor ailments, and a Child Welfare Centre once a week which is very well attended and is staffed by the County Council in buildings provided by the County and run by a local committee.

(e) HOSPITALS. The Infectious Disease Hospital is still closed and cases necessitating removal are sent to Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury. The Cottage Hospital is the only voluntary hospital and is of great assistance to the town. There is a good Hospital at the Workhouse which is generally full up.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

1. WATER. A constant and satisfactory service was maintained throughout the year by drawing on the Birmingham main and mixing it with the Burway supply. Regular samples were sent to the County Analyst and the results were uniformly satisfactory.

Thirteen additional houses were connected to the existing supply and 533 yards of new main laid for the purpose.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** Fifteen additional houses were connected with the public sewers during the year and 180 yards of new sewer laid to connect new houses with the sewers.

The Sewerage Works have been carefully supervised and the final effluent, which runs into the Teme, is uniformly clear. The septic tanks are being enlarged so as to hold two days' supply so that the organic matter will be broken up into simpler compounds and enable the filter beds to oxydise them more completely and produce a more stable effluent.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.** The collection of house and trade refuse is promptly and efficiently carried out and deposited on a tip on the outskirts of the town and carefully covered up to prevent any nuisance.

The fouling of foot-paths by dogs is still engaging the attention of the Council, but no Byelaws have yet been adopted, and it is doubtful if they could be of much use owing to the narrow foot-paths and the increasing motor traffic.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Appended to the report is an account furnished by the Surveyor of the Sanitary work completed during the year. Ninety-three houses were inspected and thirty-nine notices were sent out and twenty-seven of them were complied with, and a considerable amount of valuable sanitary improvements carried out.

**SHOPS.** No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1936, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of Shops.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.** Three complaints were received and dealt with, two due to laundries and one from a brick works.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.** There are no Public Swimming Baths in the area open to the public. A covered-in Swimming Bath, in which school children could be taught to swim and where the water is purified by filtration is, I consider, very desirable. The site on the old Smithfield is a very suitable one and very convenient for the schools and new housing schemes. Three small baths with hot water laid on are in demand, owing to the number of houses without baths in Ludlow.

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.** No action was necessary during the year either in Council or other houses.

**SCHOOLS.** The sanitary condition and water supply of the Elementary Schools in the area are very satisfactory. The improvements made at the Old Street School have been completed and are much appreciated. The large class-room was provided with a heating system.

### **Housing.**

#### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1). (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	74
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	124
(2). (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under Sub-head 1) which were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	57
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	64
(3). Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	52
(4). Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	8

#### 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	16
---	----

##### *B.* Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	24
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied, by owners ... ..	24

##### *C.* Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21, Housing Act, 1930—

(1). Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	36
---	----



- (2). Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... .. 10

Plans were passed during the year for the erection of thirteen houses by private enterprise, and all were completed.

The Council secured the land necessary for twenty-six houses required to abate overcrowding, and the houses are in the course of erection and some are now nearing completion.

There are still many houses which are to be considered for demolition in the courts off the main streets, but the cost of the houses makes it very difficult to secure an economic rent from the persons displaced. A number of houses in Rock Lane were greatly improved during the year and in many cases the occupiers were got rid of.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are nine Cowsheds, six Dairies and two Milkshops in the Borough on the register; they were regularly inspected. Structurally they are in good condition and the only notices served were in regard to the cleanliness of sheds and surroundings, and these were all promptly attended to by the tenants.

At all the Elementary Schools milk is provided for the children throughout the year.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Frequent inspections were made of the meat killed in the district or exposed for sale, and it is stated to be uniformly good in quality. Several of the slaughter-houses are in congested areas and a Public Abattoir on the outskirts of the town would be convenient and more sanitary.

### **Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. There was a small epidemic in the first three months of the year, the majority in young children who were nursed at home. One adult, who was in lodgings was sent home by car.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified, but the offer of Immunisation should be made and arranged for at the Centre in Dinham. The Rural District has completed the Immunisation of the children in a number of their schools.

**Notifiable Diseases** (other than Tuberculosis) **during 1938.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	12	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	4	1	0
Pneumonia ...	3	0	1
Dysentery ...	1	0	0
Polio Myelitis ...	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0	0
	24	4	1

**Tuberculosis.**

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade; nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act of 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

**NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.**

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				1				
15					1			
25	3	2	1					
35		1						
45								
55								
65+								
	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0



There was only one death recorded during the year.

At the close of the year the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 53 Pulmonary cases (37 male and 16 female), and 33 Non-Pulmonary cases (24 male and 9 female).

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**ALFRED E. WHITE.**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*July 27th, 1939.*

**THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT FURNISHED BY THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR, OF SANITARY WORK FOR  
THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938, IN THE  
BOROUGH OF LUDLOW SANITARY DISTRICT:—**

(a) Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey, ...	93
Number of legal notices sent ...	3
Number of informal notices sent ...	39
Number of such notices complied with ...	27
Number of letters written ...	84

**Particulars of Sanitary matters referred to in  
the above Notices:—**

(a). Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	13
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply ...	1
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended ...	4
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction ...	3
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition ...	18
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds ...	3
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) ...	16
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis ...	8
Privies converted to water closets ...	2
Plans for new houses passed ...	13
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ...	13
Houses connected to public water supply ...	13
Houses connected to public sewerage ...	15
Lengths of new sewers laid ...	180 yards
Lengths of new water mains laid ...	533 yards

(Signed)

**WM. GEO. LANE,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*

**INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938, IN  
THE LUDLOW BOROUGH SANITARY DISTRICT.**

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register	...	...	12
Number of Premises—Cowsheds	...	...	9
Dairies	...	...	6
Milkshops	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	51
Defects found (1) in Cowsheds—			
(a) floor or cubic space	...	...	Nil
(b) ventilation	...	...	Nil
(c) lighting	...	...	Nil
(d) structure of floor	...	...	Nil
(e) drainage	...	...	Nil
(f) cleanliness	...	...	3
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds	...	...	4
(3) in sanitary condition of drains	...	...	Nil
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops	...	...	Nil
(5) in water supply	...	...	Nil
Number of notices—verbal and written	...	...	7
Number of these notices complied with	...	...	7
Number of defects found and not yet remedied	...	...	Nil

*(Signed)*

**WM. GEO. LANE,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938, FOR THE BOROUGH  
OF LUDLOW, in the County of Shropshire, on the administra-  
tion of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with  
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances :—

	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	10	2
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	69	8
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	10	2
	—	—
	99	12
	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness ...	9	9
Other nuisances ...	4	4
	—	—
	13	13
	—	—

*(Signed)*

**ALFRED E. WHITE,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*July 27th, 1939.*